

February Meetings

Dates & Times:

Matinee, 2:30, Wednesday, February 8

Evenings, 8:00 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday, February 8 and 9

Place:

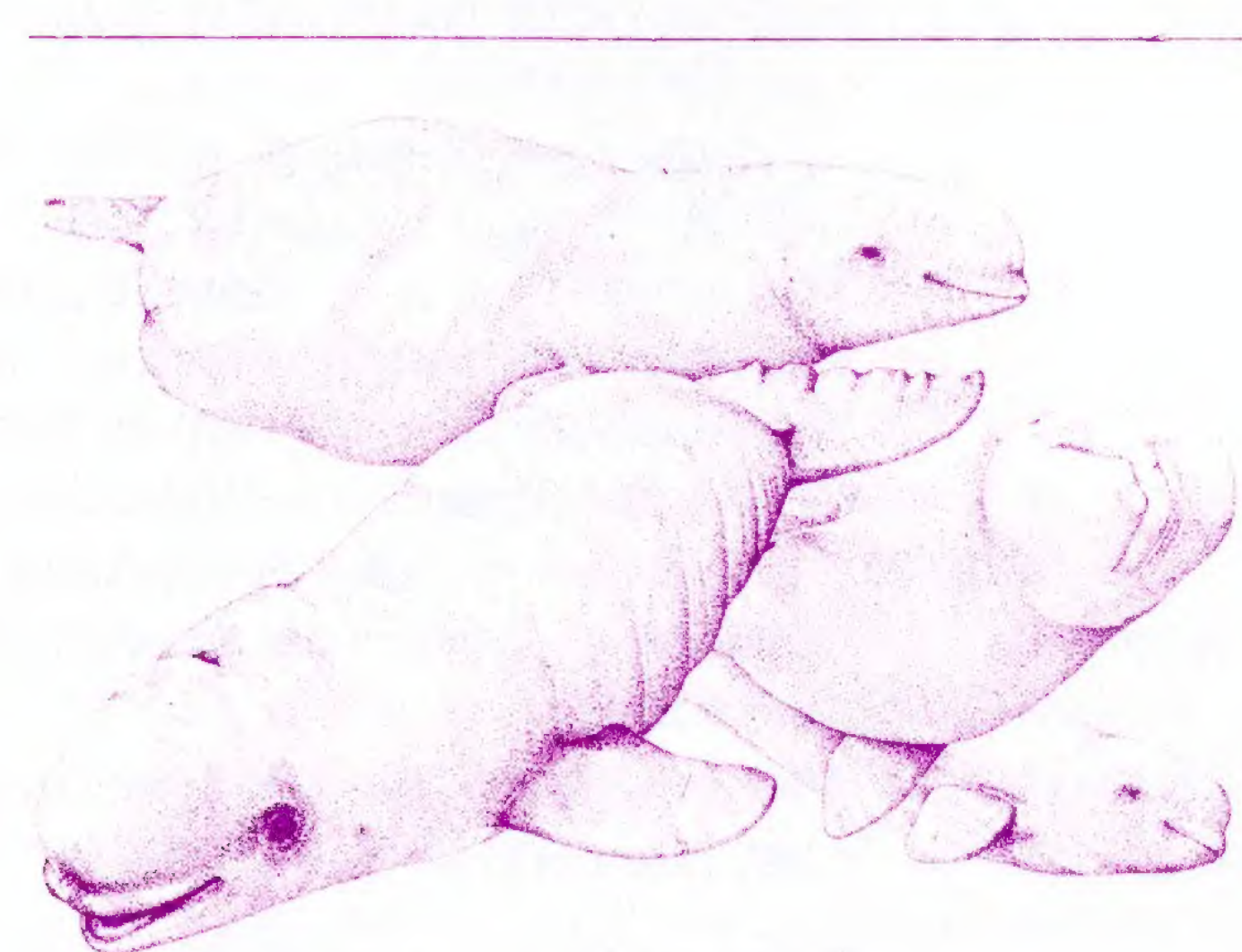
May Treat Morrison Auditorium

Speaker:

Stephanie Hewlett

Subject:

"The Birth of a Beluga Whale"



When Kavna, a female Beluga whale arrived at the Vancouver Aquarium in July, 1976, she was carrying more with her than was at first apparent. Looking like a huge white marshmallow, it was not until April, 1977 that biologists realized she was pregnant. Any birth in an aquarium or a zoo is an exciting event, but the birth of this particular Beluga calf was truly remarkable, being the first successful captive birth for the species. The little one, born July 13, 1977, was christened **Tuaq**, an Eskimo word meaning "the only one".

Our speaker, Stephanie Hewlett, a biologist at the Vancouver Aquarium, was present at the happy occasion, and will share Kavna and Tuaq's story with slides and some rare footage filmed during the delivery. Mrs. Hewlett and her husband, Gil, Curator of the Vancouver Aquarium, are the authors of a new book from McGraw-Hill entitled, "Sea Life of the Pacific Northwest".

As usual, your membership card admits you through the front entrance of Cowell Hall for all three presentations, and through the Wattis Hall entrance for the

afternoon meeting only. (Wattis Hall entrance is not open in the evenings.) You will be asked to present your membership card once again at the auditorium door for the afternoon meeting.

Special Exhibits



Actual size

Unseen Flowers of the Desert

Someday if you are walking in an undisturbed area of the desert, and you know where to look, you may be lucky enough to stumble across a mini-flower; a perfectly formed blossom so small that it is dwarfed by the point of a pin! A collection of splendid color photographs of these lovely, short-lived desert flowers is on display in Hohfeld Gallery I through April 15. The collection is the result of seven dedicated years of search by retired rancher and industrialist, Robert I. Gilbreath and is the only collection of its kind anywhere.

Wilderness and Wildlife — The Northern Rocky Mountains

In John Stern's photographic wildlife studies he has captured the vivid and subtle character of creatures and places of the wild. A native Californian, transplanted to Montana in 1974, Stern's remarkable abilities with a camera bespeak the regal yet vulnerable nature of such animals as Bighorn Sheep and Elk set against a backdrop of the rugged terrain of the Northern Rocky Mountains. Over 50 stunning photographs by this award winning photographer are on display through March in Lower Cowell Hall Gallery.

Liquid Crystals

The photomicrographs in this new exhibit are the work of Marcel Vogel and Lawrence Schauffler, and represent a photographic technique developed by scientists for scientists. What at first glance appear to be abstract paintings using every vivid color under the sun are in fact the transitory splendor of ordinary chemical compounds caught between their liquid and solid states. The large format photographs, printed by Patrick Quinlan, will be on display in Lovell White Hall through April.

Art of the First Australians continues in the Patricia Price Peterson and Atholl McBean Galleries through March. If you have not yet seen this exhibition of Aboriginal art, including bark paintings and large canvas reproductions of ground paintings, why not come early to the afternoon members' meeting for a "walkabout"?

Morrison Planetarium

The chemicals that form the Earth and the chemicals that form our bodies are spread throughout the universe. The chemicals of life are everywhere. Could there be then, somewhere, other beings on other planets who scan the heavens, wondering if they are alone in the universe? This is the subject of "**The Loneliness Factor**", the daily sky show at the Morrison Planetarium.

See "**The Loneliness Factor**" every weekday at 2:00 p.m., and on weekends at 12:30, 2:00 and 3:30. Evening shows are presented Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30.

Laserium

Vivid three-dimensional color images dance to the music of Laserium each Friday, Saturday and Sunday in the Morrison Planetarium. The original **Laserium I** can be seen on Friday, Saturday or Sunday at 9:00 p.m. **Laserium II** is presented on Friday at 7:30 and 10:30; on Saturday at 5:00 and 10:30; and on Sunday at 5:00 and 7:30. Admission to Laserium is \$3.00 for all 5:00 p.m. shows and \$3.25 for all others. Members are reminded that this is **not** a regular planetarium show and **nor** are your membership passes usable for this attraction.

Inside the Academy

New Afterschool Classes at the Junior Academy

For the first time the Junior Academy is offering afternoon courses for students 9 through 18 years of age. Registration for any of the following classes should be made by mail between February 14 and March 3. Write directly to Mr. Alan Tway, Junior Academy, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco 94118.

Marine Mammals

Tuesdays, March 7 through April 25
3:45 to 4:45 p.m.

This course, open to students 12 through 18 years of age, explores the biology of whales, dolphins, porpoises and sea otters, and includes discussions on the economic and biological forces which link man with marine mammals.

Dinosaurs

Fridays, March 10 through April 28
3:00 to 4:00 p.m.

A study of many types of dinosaurs, the "terrible lizards", how they lived and what may have led to their extinction, promises to be a very popular class, available to students 9 through 12 years of age.

Tidepool Life

Thursdays, March 23 through May 25
3:45 to 4:45 p.m.

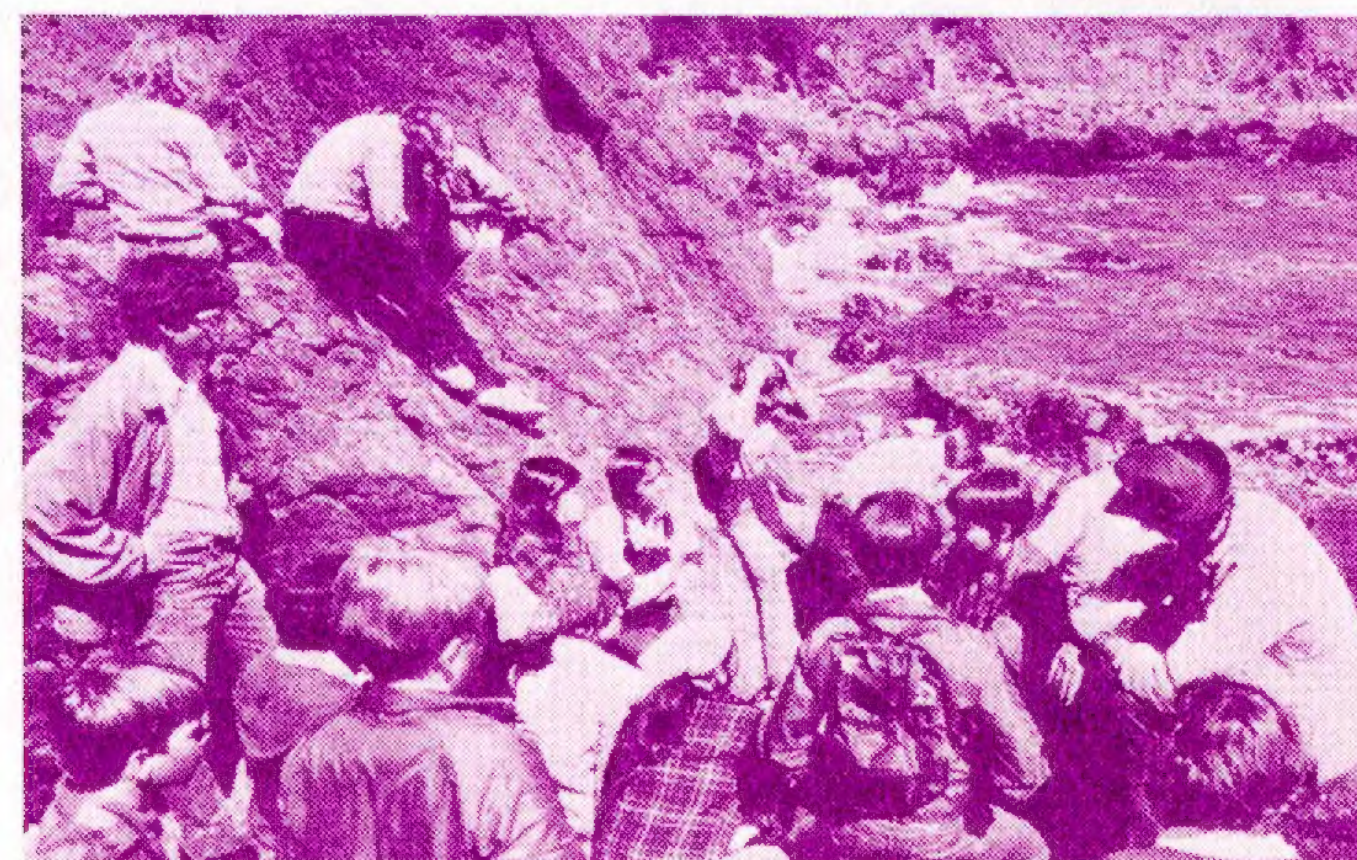
The ecology of a California tidepool, a complete biological system of plants, animals, herbivores and carnivores, is the subject of this "wet hands" experience, open to students 9 through 18 years of age. Steinhart Aquarium's tidepools and a field trip to a nearby coastal tidepool are included in the class schedule.

Sharks!

Wednesdays, April 5 through May 24
3:45 to 4:45 p.m.

The evolution and biology of sharks is the subject of this course, offered to students 9 through 18 years of age. Class members will use the living collections of Steinhart Aquarium for first hand observation of shark behavior and dissect a shark in the lab.

For additional information on any of these classes, please call 221-5100 and ask for Alan Tway, Junior Academy.



It is with sadness that we report the death of Mrs. Roberta J. Long, an invaluable member of the Academy's volunteer staff for over 20 years. Mrs. Long, an avid birdwatcher and amateur botanist, began her work cataloguing specimens in the Botany Department with John Thomas Howell. Some 10 years ago she became interested in the Academy's Picture Collection and applied her expertise to the cataloguing of bird and plant illustrations. Mrs. Long, a native of Kansas and a resident of San Francisco for the past 40 years, was past president of the Golden Gate Audubon Society, was active in The Hearing Society, and since 1966 was a backbone of the California Botanical Club, the second oldest such organization in the U.S., founded in 1881.

The Botany Department has established The Roberta J. Long Memorial Fund. Gifts in memory of Mrs. Long can be made to the California Academy of Sciences and designated "For the Roberta J. Long Memorial Fund".

Education and Travel Notes

There are several new classes beginning in February. To register for any class please send a check for the full amount, along with your name, address and daytime telephone number to the Education Office of the Academy. Although pre-registration is encouraged, students may sign up at the front door of the Academy the first night of class, space permitting. Class fees are refundable up to the second class meeting, less a \$5.00 service charge.

Biology of Insects

February 1-March 22 — 7-9:30 p.m.
(8 Wednesdays)

Academy staff member, Dr. Edward S. Ross, is an internationally known entomologist and photographer, and will share both talents with the students of this class. The biology of insects, their behavior and special adaptations to the environment, plus some identification of local insects will be included.

\$30 individuals; \$45 for families;
non-members add \$10 more.

Advanced Taxidermy

February 13-April 3: 7-10 p.m.
(8 Mondays)

This "hands-on" class, limited to 10, will be devoted to carrying out the projects of the students under the tutelage of the Academy's taxidermist, Fred Funk. Prerequisites for this class are previous taxidermy experience, or completion of the introductory taxidermy class.

\$55 members; \$65 non-members.

Basic Techniques in Nature Drawing

February 16-April 20: 7-10 p.m.
(10 Thursdays)

This course is designed for students with little or no experience in drawing. The objective is to develop within the student a sensitivity to form and contour in the observed natural world with emphasis on the discipline of draftsmanship. Grant Schar, Art Instructor at City College of San Francisco, will teach this class..

\$50 for members; \$60 for non-members,
plus materials.

Care of Fresh and Saltwater Aquarium Fishes

February 16-April 20: 7-9 p.m.
(10 Thursdays)

This popular, often repeated practical course covers the maintenance of home aquariums, including feeding, equipment, disease prevention, treatment and setting up the balanced tank. The class will tour Steinhart Aquarium. This class is taught by former Steinhart aquarist, Glenn E. Burghardt.

\$30 for individuals; \$45 for families;
non-members add \$10.

Exploring the Universe

February 21-May 2: 7-9 p.m.
(11 Tuesdays)

In this introductory course in astronomy we will survey our solar system and beyond: pulsars, black holes, other galaxies plus an overview of UFO's and the search for extraterrestrial life complete our exploration. Several sessions will be held in the Morrison Planetarium sky theater and there will be one field trip. This class is taught by the Director of the Morrison Planetarium, Dr. Lee Simon.

\$30 for individuals; \$45 for families;
non-members add \$10.

Gems and Minerals

February 27-April 17: 7-9:30 p.m.
(8 Mondays)

This lecture/lab course will explore the classification, occurrence, origins and properties of minerals. Basic identification procedures will be demonstrated using minerals and gemstones from the Academy's collections. They will be discussed in terms of past and present uses, including medicinal, talismanic and ornamental. Collecting and curating methods will be included. This course is taught by J. DeMouthe Smith, an Associate of the Academy's Geology Department.

\$30 for individuals; \$45 for families; non-members add \$10.

Bodega Bay and Birds:

February 4, 1978

Another of our popular annual trips, planned as a one-day visit to Bodega Bay to see the great variety and numbers of migrating and over-wintering waterfowl. Birding experience is not necessary, there is plenty here for all to enjoy.

Dr. John Arnold will be resident-expert. We'll leave from the Academy at 8 a.m. and return in the late afternoon.

\$15 for members, \$20 for non-members.

Ames Research Center

Wednesday, February 22
Noon to 4:00 p.m.

This second Midweek Members' Tour, a new addition for our Academy members, takes us to Ames Research Center for a tour through their Life Sciences buildings. The chartered bus will leave the Academy at noon and return about 4:00 p.m.

Advance reservations are required.
\$6.00 per person, members only.

Elephant Seals at Ano Nuevo Point

Sunday, February 26

Two groups of 20 each can be accommodated on the ranger-led Ano Nuevo Point hike to see and learn about the elephant seals in residence there. We'll have a chartered bus leaving from the Academy at 11:30 a.m., returning about 6:00 p.m. It is a good hike, about three miles round trip, through sand (or mud,

if it rains), so come prepared. \$9.00 per person, members only. Advance reservations required.

Reservations for any of the above trips should be made by mail through the Travel Office. The enclosure of a self-addressed stamped envelope is always appreciated.

Hawaiian Islands:

March 3-12, 1978

Charles Chesterman, Honorary Curator of Mineralogy will be your guide, and volcanoes, whales and tropical vegetation on the Islands of Maui, Hawaii and Kauai will be the focus of this very special Academy junket to Hawaii.

Cost: approximately \$540, plus airfare. Contact Nature Expeditions International 599 College Avenue, Palo Alto, Ca. 94306, telephone 328-6572, or call the Academy's Travel Office for further information.

Sea of Cortez:

March 24-April 2, 1978

A cruise on the Sea of Cortez is an experience not to be missed by those who enjoy the desert environment of Baja California. Limited to 17. Cost: approximately \$650 from San Diego. Contact Nature Expeditions International, 599 College Avenue, Palo Alto 94306, telephone 328-6572 for further information.

Alaska

July 7-21, 1978

This is a repeat of a fascinating trip to our great wilderness state of Alaska. Accompanied by Dr. and Mrs. Robert T. Orr and also by resident naturalist, members will visit spectacular Glacier Bay and the uniquely scenic Katmai National Monument. Participants will spend an unforgettable five days at Camp Denali at Mt. McKinley National Park, photographing, exploring and studying the natural history and wonders of this magnificent area. An optional extension to Nome and Kotzebue will be available for those who can stay until July 24th. Cost: approximately \$1800. Limited to 24. Contact Siemer and Hand Ltd., One Embarcadero Center, San Francisco, 94111. Telephone (415) 788-7186.

Linblad Explorer to the Galapagos

Linblad Travel, Inc. has received authorization from Ecuador for three cruises to the Galapagos Archipelago in March and April, 1978. Space is being held for Academy members who would like the experience of visiting the islands with the comfort of the famous M.S. LINBLAD EXPLORER.

The third cruise has been especially scheduled for the Academy and will depart from Guayaquil Ecuador on April 25 and will be in the Galapagos from April 26 through May 7, after which it will proceed northward to arrive in Acapulco, Mexico on May 11, in time for connecting flights home.

Academy participants in this cruise will depart April 18 and meet travelers from other parts of the nation in Quito on April 19. There will be sightseeing in the Andes before boarding the ship at Guayaquil for the cruise itself on April 25.

If you or your friends would like information about the LINBLAD EXPLORER in the Galapagos please telephone or write the Academy's Travel Office, 221-5100, for a brochure and complete information.

New Members of the Academy

Regular Members

Mr. Edward J. Adamczak
Dr. & Mrs. J. Lee Aiken
Mr. Bert L. Allen
Mr. Charles W. Ashford
Mr. Clifford Ashworth
Mr. Donald E. Ayres
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Mr. R. L. Baldwin
Dr. Eddie F. Barr
Dr. Albert J. Beck
Ms. Helen Beikman
Ms. Harriet Benson
Mr. Joseph A. Berry
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Miss Valerie Bisazza
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Dr. Robert Bloom
Mr. R. Allen Brand
Mr. Lorenz M. Braren
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen R. Brown
Dr. Joseph Brozda
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Mr. Robert Buscho
Mr. Mearl L. Campbell
Mrs. John D. Carter

Mrs. Christiane Chaney
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Mr. Frank Dare
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Mrs. Bonnie Depp
Mr. Robert A. Dewey, Jr.
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Dr. Peter D. Eisenberg
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Dr. & Mrs. Edward Erigero
Mr. Donald Estavan
Mr. Gene Farland
Dr. & Mrs. Clifford L. Feiler
Dr. M. H. Fertman
Dr. Frank Filippini
Mr. Byron B. Fong
Mrs. George Foo

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 Dr. Mitchell Friedlander
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 Mrs. Patricia Geer
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 Mrs. David E. Golay
 Mrs. Ruth Goldman
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 Mr. Louis Gordon
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 Mr. Paul Lowinger
 Miss Diane Luzzi
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